

Minutes of the April 7, 2011 HP/FH Committee Meeting

Attendance

Present: Ellen Kosmer (EK); Claude Tellier (CT); Chris Hoffmann (CH); Nancy Gregg (NG), Chair; Walter Wolnik (WW).
Nate Malloy (NM) (Staff).

Actions:

Called to order at 9:24 am.

Approved minutes of March 10, 2011 meeting.

CT/CH, Unanimous.

Approved minutes of March 23, 2011 joint meeting with LSSE Commission, together with Meeting Notes which will be kept with them.

CH/EK, Unanimous.

Adjourned at 10:57 am.

Discussion:

Announcements. Anne Perkins is not coming today as had been scheduled; she'd been coming largely to talk about the "Stretch Code", which Town Meeting is being asked to adopt. The Habitat project was recommended by CPAC. Olympia Oaks will be going to the ZBA for the third time; issuance of a permit is expected if the Board is able to get through all the findings.

Minutes. Minutes of March 10th and 23rd were approved.

Affordable Housing Forum. Speakers will include Peg Keller, Chris Riddle (or possibly Joe Krupczynski), Anne Perkins, Joanne Campbell, and someone from Easthampton. The contact list was reviewed. NG said Dianne Lederman will have an article in the Republican, and she will contact Gazette reporter Scott Merzbach. NM will provide name tags and other materials. Attendees should be greeted at the door by committee members, and NG will make opening remarks. Roundtable questions were reviewed and reordered. EK will moderate the roundtable. and NM will write down strategies. Everyone should arrive at 3:45 to set up the room beforehand.

CT will continue trying to obtain donated refreshments. A "Plan B", with members of the committee bringing refreshments, was formulated if this effort turned out to be unsuccessful.

Discussion of the Housing Production Plan that is intended to be developed was prompted by CT's asking why people are afraid of affordable housing in their neighborhood. Block grant funding for developing this has been tentatively approved. The consultant RFP will be worked on by this committee along with the Committee on Homelessness and the Community Development Committee.

NG and CH reported that they'd received inquiries from a Butterfield Farm neighbor about the "Amherst preference" for who would get to live there. The Chapter 40B statute provides that such a preference can be for a maximum 70% of those who currently live or work in Amherst, and that this preference can not be mentioned in advertisements.

Hawthorne. The template draft for the Hawthorne Meadow Recommendations was looked at. EK and CT will assist Anna-Beth Winograd ("A.B.") from the LSSE Commission, Select Board liaison Alisa Brewer, and NM in writing the Draft Recommendations document in late April.

This committee will review the Draft Recommendations at our next, May 12th, meeting. With respect to housing: ownership vs rental, the number of units, staying in the existing footprint, and possibly using the barn are issues to be considered. With respect to recreation: this committee's views would have less weight, but it may make comments about activities on the playing fields that could serve residents of the affordable housing that will be created.

Tasks:

Prepare for Housing Forum, April 12th.

Documents:

Affordable Housing Forum: flyer, contact list, roundtable questions.

March 23 Joint meeting with LSSE: meeting notes, issues raised.

Very rough initial draft for Hawthorne Meadow Recommendations.

Next meetings:

May 12 at 9 am, First Floor Meeting Room.

Submitted By

Walter Wolnik